



Safety On The Line



A service of the NASA KSC Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate – April 2010

"It's better to lose one minute in life... than to lose life in a minute."

Are you Afraid of **Snakes** OR **Rabbits**?

Most people go out of their way to avoid **snakes**! They are dangerous, cold-blooded, sinister-looking, deadly, and some are poisonous. We take extra precautions to avoid any interaction with them.



On the other hand, there's hardly anyone who's afraid of a **rabbit**. They are cute and fluffy, warm-blooded, and non-poisonous. BUT, what we don't normally consider is that *a Rabbit can bite and scratch the daylight out of you!* When frightened, it struggles violently and strikes its hind legs powerfully which can cause injury!



Now, let's create an analogy to our KSC work environment.

❖ **Snakes** are our high pressure, high energy systems, confined spaces, and working at heights environments. *We respect the hazards they present and approach them only after being trained and properly donning PPE. In doing this, we accomplish our tasks safely and with minimal risk.*

❖ **Rabbits** are like our entry/exit doors, hallways, chairs, items we use and carry, and other everyday work necessities. They don't appear to be dangerous, so we *don't generally afford the "safety" consideration we do to the things that we fear.* However, analyses of Lost Time Injuries reveal that we do a very good job avoiding the **"Snakes"**, but we are getting scratched and injured by our **"Rabbits"**!

Beware of ALL situational hazards. Perform a basic review and analysis of the work area. This can be as simple as asking yourself what can go wrong, identifying concerns, and taking action or working with your supervisor to eliminate those **rabbit-type** hazards.

CAUTION

Beware of Rabbits

Spring is Here! Time for Cleaning!¹

While doing your Spring Cleaning, take notice of some important safety tips to keep yourself and others injury and incident-free!

Avoid Strains, Sprains, and Back Injuries:

- ❖ Warm-up and stretch before beginning potentially strenuous clean-up activities
- ❖ Always use proper lifting technique – remember to *"use your legs, not your back"*
- ❖ Get help moving bulky or heavy loads, or break them up into several smaller manageable loads

Protect your Hands and Feet:

- ❖ When working with chemicals, use gloves so as to not cause a skin reaction/irritation
- ❖ Wear heavy-duty closed toe shoes when lifting items
- ❖ Wear shoes with slip-resistant soles.

Beware of Air Quality:

- ❖ The EPA has determined that indoor air can be 2-5 times more polluted than outside air.
- ❖ Beware of mold and mildew hazards and take necessary precautions
- ❖ Read warnings/precautions on cleaning chemicals and follow the recommended safety measures (Use non-toxic cleaners, if available).

Parking Lot Safety – Reminder

The April 2009² issue of Safety On The Line addressed parking lot safety. **Forty-two (42)** citations were issued as a result of parking lot accidents in 2008. Unfortunately, that number has increased over the past twelve months (since March 2009) by **57% to 66 citations**. All personnel are reminded to:

- ❖ Comply with all posted traffic signs
- ❖ Obey all pavement directional arrows, stop bars and use the designated driving lanes (avoid cutting through parking lanes)
- ❖ Watch for pedestrians in parking lots and crosswalks
- ❖ Park only in authorized, clearly-marked parking spaces
- ❖ Park headfirst and always be careful when backing up
- ❖ Do not park in designated construction areas and obey traffic control devices (cones, signs & tape)
- ❖ Practice defensive driving in parking lots and always be alert for sudden braking or cars pulling out of spaces

Please make it a habit to follow these safety tips! IF NOT, you could find yourself adding to the 66 citations already issued on KSC this year!

Additional Information and Resources

- 1: <http://nationalsafety.wordpress.com/?s=spring+cleaning>
- 2: <http://sotl.ksc.nasa.gov/Documents/2009/SOTL%20April%202009.pdf>



Do you have questions, comments, or an article you would like to submit? Contact Reneka Whicker @867-1549 or Brian Gloade @867-9436, mail code SA-E/MEI or e-mail. Safety on the Line is also on the Web at <http://sotl.ksc.nasa.gov>